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REPORT OF THE PRC SUB-COMMITTEE ON NEPAD

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Eleventh meeting of the PRC Sub-Committee on NEPAD was held on 27th November 2015 in Small Conference Hall 4, at the Headquarters of the AU Commission, under the chairpersonship of H.E. Mr Mull S. Katende, Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda, in the place of H.E.Ms. Catherine Muigai-Mwangi, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya (Chair of the Sub-Committee on NEPAD) who was on official mission out of Addis Ababa.

2. A second meeting of the same Sub Committee was held on the 15th December 2015, to adopt the report of the 27th November 2015 meeting. That meeting was chaired by H.E.Ms. Catherine Muigai-Mwangi, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya and Chair of the PRC Sub Committee on NEPAD.

3. In her opening remarks, Her Excellency Ms. Catherine Muigai-Mwangi, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya and Chair of the PRC Sub Committee on NEPAD addressed a special thanks to H.E. Mr Mull S. Katende, Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda, for the fruitful manner he chaired that meeting of the 27th November 2015 as the acting Chair. She also welcomed all the participants for attending the first official meeting of the renewed PRC Sub Committee on NEPAD under her chairpersonship and call upon the entire member of the Sub Committee for its support and diligence. She pointed out the importance of the coordination role that the PRC Sub Committee on NEPAD will play between the PRC the NEPAD Agency.

4. The deliberations of the meeting of the 15th December 2015, which were focused mainly on the adoption of the report of the meeting of the 27th November 2015, have been incorporated in the present report in term of amendments, corrections and the restructuring of the format of the report.

II. ATTENDANCE

5. Present at the meeting, were representatives of the following Member States: Algeria, Botswana, Chad, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda and Zambia;

- **Absent during the 27th November 2015 meeting were:** Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Rwanda and Senegal.
- **Absent during the 15th December 2015 meeting were:** Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Mali and Senegal

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The following agenda was adopted after amendment by adding an item related to the **“Process of the election of the Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Agency”**.

- i) Introductory remarks by the acting Chair of the Sub-Committee;
- ii) Brief presentation from the NEPAD Staff on the activities undertaken over the last one year;
- iii) Brief from NEPAD on the progress made by the Agency on the issue of resolving programmatic overlaps and duplication as stated in the last report of the PRC Sub Committee;
- iv) Update on the progress made on the issue of integration of NEPAD into the AU structure and processes;
- v) The process of the election of the Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Agency;
- vi) Any Other Business;
- vii) Closing.

IV. OPENING

7. In his opening address, His Excellency Mull S. Katende, Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda, in his capacity as the Acting Chair of the Sub-committee, welcomed all members of the Sub-Committee and thanked the NEPAD delegation for coming to brief the Sub-committee on NEPAD matters. He informed the meeting that he was standing-in for H.E Catherine Muigai-Mwangi, the Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya, who was on mission outside Ethiopia.

V. PROCEEDINGS

Presentations

8. A power point presentation on NEPAD activities undertaken over the year 2015 was made by Mr. Mohamed Abdisalam, Head, Programmes Implementation and Management in NEPAD Office in Midrand, South Africa.

9. The presentation gave an overview of the NEPAD Agency's mandate and analysis of the key results of 2015. The presentation, herewith attached, indicated that the NEPAD Agency's activities during the year 2015 were focused on implementation of programmes and projects at continental, regional and national levels in six thematic areas, namely: Agriculture, nutrition and food security; climate change and natural resources management; infrastructure and regional integration; human development, science, technology and innovation; rural futures and governance; cross-cutting issues, gender, youth and capacity development.

10. The presentation was complemented by Prof. Tandeka Nkiwane, Special Advisor on Inter-Institutional Relations of NEPAD Agency, who highlighted the issues of the

African Global Partnership Platform and the co-hosting of the PIDA week in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

11. With respect to the progress made by the NEPAD Agency on the issue of resolving programmatic overlaps and duplication, as stated in the last report of the PRC Sub-Committee, the meeting was informed that the issue will be addressed during the forthcoming Coordination Mechanism meeting.

12. With respect to the issue of integration of NEPAD into the African Union structure and processes, Amb. Lazarous Kapambwe, Special Advisor on Economic Affairs in the Bureau of the Chairperson of the AUC, in his capacity as the Acting Coordinator of the NEPAD Coordination Unit, recalled the background/context of the process and informed the Sub-Committee that work is on-going from the **Unit's** side which has submitted a draft to the leadership for endorsement and discussions are expected to take place between the AUC and the NEPAD Agency in the very near future.

VI. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

13. Following the presentations, the PRC Sub-Committee members made comments and observations and sought clarifications as follows:

- i) Need to clarify the criteria of eligibility of countries for NEPAD programmes and projects (geographic representation, rotation); and a proposal for the establishment of a "Committee" to deal with the issue of eligibility so as to democratize the process of selection of eligible projects;
 - ii) NEPAD activities have to cover all the 54 African countries instead of 52 as reported in the presentation;
 - iii) Clarification on the status of the Abidjan-Lagos Highway project and the Nigeria-Algeria Pipeline project;
 - iv) Clarification was sought as to whether the harmonization of medical products took into account the draft AU model law on Medical Products Regulation;
 - v) Observation was made that the agricultural management risk assessment should include/address the losses incurred by farmers due to El Nino effects and also due to fake farm inputs like fertilizers and seeds;
 - vi) The need to clarify whether the process of data collection by students regarding infrastructure projects consulted with existing infrastructure institutions in Member States;
 - vii) The completion time-lines for the infrastructure development projects with respect to the 16 Mega projects should be clearly indicated, as well as whether there are new projects in the pipeline in the continent; and
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- viii) The need to indicate a timeframe for completing the integration of NEPAD into AU structure and processes.

VII. RESPONSES AND CLARIFICATIONS

14. In response to the concerns raised in paragraph **14** above, the presenters provided clarification as follows:

- i) The two African countries which are not benefiting from NEPAD Agency Programmes/Projects are Somalia and SADR, mainly due to security issues;
- ii) The role of NEPAD is to ensure a continental coverage of all African countries but unfortunately, budgetary constraints and cooperating partners conditionalities have put difficulties on the eligibility of countries. In addition, project preparation processes affect the selection of countries, as partners; and funding usually comes after feasibility studies are done and the level of bankability of projects determined;
- iii) With respect to risk management, NEPAD's role is, among others, to encourage a multi-sectorial, institutional and multi-disciplinary approach in CAADP and PIDA and to improve capability and set up an integrated system;
- iv) The slow implementation pace of projects like: the Fiber Optic, the Highway and Gas Pipeline are due to the fact that NEPAD was working directly with RECs which don't have expertise to conduct the projects. But now three experts (3 per REC) have been assigned to each REC to fast-track these projects and by next June 2016 comprehensive information will be provided to the Sub-Committee;
- v) The NEPAD Agency's activities are broader and cover many aspects: Science and Technology, Capacity Building, Gender, Youth, Water, Sanitation, Climate Change, and Mining, among others; and
- vi) There is urgent need to accelerate the integration process, but the AUC on-going restructuring could affect the process of concluding the integration of NEPAD into the AU structures.
- vii) The completion timelines of the 16 Mega Projects is facing some challenges particularly the lack of outside funding and the insufficiency of technical expert to assist the RECs. Therefore no specific timeline for completion of projects were indicated.

15. After the presentations and discussions on NEPAD programmes, the Acting Chairperson of the PRC Sub-Committee on NEPAD brought to the attention of the meeting the issue of the process of the election of the Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD Agency. In this respect, the Acting Chairperson recalled that the post of NEPAD CEO will be vacant in April 2017 and since the election process takes time, he suggested that

the process should be initiated, including declaration of the vacancy and circulation of terms of reference to all member states of the Union.

RECOMMENDATIONS

16. In conclusion, the PRC Sub-Committee on NEPAD recommends to the PRC to:

- i) Take note of the briefing provided by representatives of NEPAD and the AUC;
- ii) To recommend to the Executive Council to request the Commission and the NEPAD Agency to propose a well streamlined criteria for eligibility of Member States for NEPAD projects including establishment of a Committee for the purpose;
- iii) To recommend to the Executive Council to give a time line for the integration of NEPAD into the AU structure and processes;
- iv) To recommend to the Executive Council to request the Commission, in collaboration with the NEPAD Agency, to declare the vacancy of the position of CEO of NEPAD Agency and circulate the terms of reference relating to the position to all member states.
- v) To recommend to the Executive Council to request the Commission and the NEPAD Agency to extend NEPAD programmes/projects to the RASD since there is no security concern in that country;
- vi) To recommend to the Executive Council to request the Commission and the NEPAD Agency that the harmonization of medical products should takes into account the draft AU model law on regulation of medical products;
- vii) To recommend to the Executive Council to request the Commission in collaboration with the NEPAD Agency to provide a clear completion time-lines for the infrastructure development projects with respect to the 16 Mega projects as well as the new projects in the pipeline in the continent.

VIII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND CLOSING

17. The Chair thanked the participants for their active participation and rich comments. She noted that the discussions were very interesting and expressed her gratitude for the contributions and recommendations.

18. The Chair thanked all members of the Sub-committee for successfully completing the meeting and declared it closed at 16h55mns.

Addis Ababa, 30th December 2015

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